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Hairouna Times

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Our Christmas Message

The events of September 11th 2001, left us all gasping. The incredible sight of two enormous buildings crumbling to the ground, humans disappearing into thin air, a long list of missing persons, devastated families mourning, and an economy reeling in recession, caused us all great grief. Our sadness is very burdensome. But now comes Christmas. The Yuletide season is a reminder of God's power of rebirth and reclamation. God is omnipotent, and by asking for God's grace and blessings, we will be renewed.

The devastation left no nation or people unaffected. Vincentians at home and abroad felt the weight of this tragedy. Two Vincentians (as of this writing) were lost in the destruction. Mr. Andre Cox of New Montrose and Mr. Cosmos Crozier of Georgetown, both missing and presumed dead. Our prayers and sympathy go out to their families.

Several Vincentians who worked at the Word Trade Center and in surrounding buildings escaped being counted as missing, simply by the stroke of luck. God was on their side. A more powerful force than luck. There are stories of Vincentian nationals whose escape had to be ordained by God. One was scheduled to begin work at a later time than normal; he missed death by a few hours. Another was delayed because of a sick child; she thinks of that child's illness as a "God-send." One was walking towards the first building when the aircraft struck. He was so close to the point of impact that he could see death.

Then another used as much speed as humanly possible to run away from the falling building. The stories are endless.

These events have reminded us that we cannot take anything for granted. Let us appreciate the gifts of time, love and family. We know their importance. This Yuletide season, let us reach out in love and kindness and embrace the warmth and love of others. Peace, Love, and Happiness.

In the Spotlight



Mr. Oscar Hannaway, a local businessman, runs a personnel agency, NAI Personnel, headquartered in Washington, DC. Mr. Hannaway

was born in Chateaubelair. He attended Richmond Hill Government school and later St Vincent Boys Grammar School. He migrated to the U.S and joined the United States Army, where he served from 1972 to 1974. His last duty station was Bamberg, Germany. His company, NAI personnel, opened in January 1987, and today has offices in four different locations throughout the Washington metropolitan area, with 325 employees. Mr. Hannaway is a constant and dependable contributor to SVGNA annual Childrens's Christmas party, and he underwrites all the postage

to distribute SVGNA newsletters. Mr. Hannaway presently resides with his family in Washington, D.C. The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Nationals Association of Washington, D.C. thanks Mr. Oscar Hannaway for his continuous support and contributions to the organization.



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A Tribute to Former Ambassador Kingsley C.A. Layne, C.M.G.

His Excellency Kingsley C.A. Layne was St. Vincent and the Grenadines' first resident ambassador to the United States of America. He established the Embassy in Washington, D.C., in 1990, and presented credentials to President George Bush Sr. on February 19, 1991. Ambassador Layne was also Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States (OAS), beginning September 1990. He was concurrently Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 1990 to 1994. In his capacity as Chairman of the Latin American and Caribbean Group of countries at the United Nations (GRULAC) in June 1993, Ambassador Layne's leadership was responsible for the election of the first national of a Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country as Chairman of the UN General Assembly. The Region's candidate, Guyana, was elected President, of the 48th Session (1993-1994), unopposed. On a previous occasion, the Caribbean candidature faltered because of uncertainty in the group. At the OAS he co-chaired the Joint Working Group charged with the merging of two precursor councils into the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI). This new entity is responsible for the hemispheric organization's co-operation programmes. Ambassador Layne was elected the first Chairman of its Permanent Executive Committee (CEPCIDI), by acclamation, in June 1996, at the Council's inaugural meeting in Panama City, Panama. Hemispheric ministers lauded the

Caribbean Elections

✘ St. LUCIA – Dec 3rd 2001

The St. Lucia Labour Party led by Prime Minister, Dr Kenny Anthony swept into its second term in power, after general election was held on December 3rd. Although elections took place six month earlier than the constitutional requirement, the party, whose campaign slogan was "By Far The Best" won 14 of the 17 seats. The other 3 seats went to the main Opposition United Workers Party headed by Dr. Morella Joseph.

✘ TRINIDAD & TOBAGO - Dec 10th 2001

"Dead Heat", the heading shouted from the pages of newspapers around the Caribbean. This is the result of the recent elections, contested by five political parties. The Unity National Congress (UNC) headed by the current Prime Minister, Basdeo Panday won 18 seats and the People's National Movement (PNM), headed by the former Prime Minister, Patrick Manning, also won 18 seats. A third party, Organization for National Reconstruction lost its only seat in Tobago. Although this tie is referred to as a 'Constitutional crisis,' the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago will guide the next course of events.

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Ambassador's stewardship in the creation of CIDI. The establishment of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development is widely regarded as one of the most important institutional innovations in the 50 years of the Organization's existence, as presently constituted.

Ambassador Layne was the motivating force in the formation of COSAGO; the Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Organizations U.S.A. Inc. COSAGO is the national umbrella organization for all Vincentian associations in the U.S. He was selected as one of the Council's two honourees at the 21st anniversary of SVG's Independence in October, 2000. The Ambassador was also instrumental in the establishment of the National Coalition on Caribbean Affairs (NCOCA), which brings together all Caribbean organizations in the U.S. He was honoured for his contributions to the Caribbean community at the official launching of NCOCA on February 7, 1997, at OAS headquarters in Washington. He was named NCOCA's Honorary Chairman on April 17, 1999, by the Organization's Board of Directors. The Ambassador worked with members of the Caribbean Community in establishing the Association of Caribbean/American Elected Officials and Leaders (ACAL), which goals are, inter alia, the promotion and preservation of a favourable climate between the U.S. and the Caribbean Community. The Vincentian diplomat was Dean of Caribbean, OAS and Western hemisphere Ambassadors in Washington, and the 4th ranking Ambassador accredited to the United States when he demitted office. He was made a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George (C.M.G) by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in the 1998 Birthday Honours. He was honoured for outstanding public and diplomatic service to St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Ambassador Layne was decorated with the insignia of the Order by Her Majesty at an Investiture in Buckingham Palace on October 27, 1998.

On Sunday January 17, 1999 Ambassador Layne received the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Award for International Service. Other recipients were the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson and Senator Robert Dole. The King Legacy Awards are presented annually by the International Salute Committee to individuals who have

made significant contributions in academia, industry, national and international affairs. The Award is one of the most prestigious in the United States presented in memory of the great civil rights leader. Ambassador Layne was unanimously elected Chairman of the Special Committee on Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities, by the Permanent Council, on November 22, 2000. Increased involvement of civil society in national and multilateral affairs is an area of major political emphasis for the nations of the hemisphere, and the world.

IN THE NEWS

Annual Moonlight cruise

The Spirit of Washington set sail on July 21st 2001, just in time to commence and enjoy the most anticipated event of the summer; the annual moonlight cruise. The crowd was much more than normal. It was obvious the word was out, and more people than usual planned to be a part of it. Immediately, the non-stop party began and continued until the boat returned to the pier. The DJ's, situated on each deck, kept the party going to everyone's satisfaction. The raffle was drawn and the winners were announced. **NOTE:** In preparing for next years cruise, please remember to purchase your tickets early, and on the night of the event, obtain your boarding pass as soon as you get to the pier, to ensure you are on the boat when it leaves the dock.

22nd Independence Church Service



The Church Service took place on Sunday October 21st at the Holy Comforter Church. The sermon was presented by Vincentian, Rev. Glyger Beach, based in Brooklyn, New York.

22nd Independence Dinner/Dance

Independence Day, October 27th 2001. SVGNA celebrated with a dinner and dance at the Hall of the Americas, the Organization of American States. The evening began with cocktails, and a serenade of live music. Guests traveled from Richmond and Virginia Beach Virginia, Philadelphia, New York, and as far as North Carolina and Canada. During the ceremony, Brenda Simms and Barbara Fergus received awards in appreciation of their dedicated service to the organization. Former Ambassador Kinsley Layne, honoured the organization with an award, which was presented by Mr. Bob Brereton and accepted by President Lennox Simon on behalf of the organization. Mrs. Ruby Crichton was the Mistress-of-Ceremony for the evening. It was an enjoyable event.



Guests enjoy dancing after the dinner and ceremony.

Reminder

Monthly general meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at 7:00 pm:
The Holy Comforter Episcopal Church
701 Oglethorpe St, N.W
Washington, D.C. 20011

Hairoun Dance Theatre visits Washington D.C

At the Hall of the Americas, the Organization of American States, on August 17th, 2001, the Hairoun Theatre Company of St. Vincent, performed for the first time in the nation's capital. The Theater Company, based in Kingstown, made up of 18 members, was on tour in the U.S. They performed in Washington, D.C and New York. Their repertoire included poetry recital, "rush-on" ballet, drama, folk songs and dancing. The poetry was both timely and relevant, as it dealt with very serious topics, including AIDS, issues facing St. Vincent. The evening concluded with a medley of folk songs.

Annual Family Picnic

August 26th 2001, At Area 6 at Rock Creek Park, the annual family picnic was held. Music was provided by Kenley "Shortmus" John. There were different forms of entertainment including 'piniada' and rounders, netball and a serious soccer match. Food was provided.

Annual Children's Christmas Party

The Annual Children's Christmas party took place on Dec. 15th 2001, at Holy Comforter Church. Although Santa was not available, the children each received Christmas presents from Santa helpers. Gibbons Joseph provided music.

Questions, comments and suggestions are encouraged. This newsletter is for you and we want to provide the information you need. Please contact any member of the executive, or email SvgnadC@aol.com with any comments or recommendations you have.



*The President, Executive Board, and members of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Nationals Association of Washington, D.C. express their sincere **Thanks** for your support. We thank you for your individual contributions throughout the year.*

We wish you and your family a very

MERRY CHRISTMAS

And a wonderful and



*prosperous **NEW YEAR.***



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